

A Christmas With No Gifts—

no tokens of the day, no remembrances from friends, barely enough food to sustain life, no winter clothing, and the constant threat of a "dispossession."

Left to themselves, such will be this Christmas in some 3,000 homes known to us—most of them with little children—where recent death or sickness cause the distress which winter now makes acute.

Will you join us to bring a little Christmas brightness to these homes?

Send your gift to George Blagden, Treasurer, Room 212, 105 East 22nd Street. NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR.

Cornelius N. Elias, Jr., President.

98 OUT OF EVERY 100 GERMANS RECOVER

Berlin Claims 89 Per Cent of Wounded Return to Service.

London, Dec. 20.—According to "The Times," the German newspapers have been supplied with extraordinary figures concerning the low rate of mortality and the high rate of recoveries among the German wounded, which, even if approximately correct, would greatly impair the value of most of the rough calculations of German casualties made in England.

It is stated, for example, that in the first month of the war nearly 85 per cent of the wounded were able to return to military service, while 3 per cent died and the remaining 12 per cent were discharged.

It is further claimed that month by month there has been a steady improvement on these figures, and that the monthly average shows that for every 100 wounded 89.5 were fit for service, 8.8 were discharged or sent on leave and only 1.7 died.

The report says: "No army in the world can show such favorable returns."

It is disconcerting to the British that just at this time French official medical reports should show practically the same percentage of recoveries as the German.

Paris, Dec. 19.—Dr. Jacques Bertillon, director of medical statistics of the French army, in a special report states that the mortality among the sick and wounded in hospitals is only 18 in 1,000. Last year the mortality rate was 53 in 1,000. In peace times the Paris hospitals show a mortality of 100 in 1,000.

The cause of the decrease is attributed to better hospital conditions.

Photo: 1000 this 12 x 8 inches

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HOLLAND FILLED WITH WAR SPIRIT

Dutch Fields Network of Trenches and Concealed Defences.

HATRED OF GERMANS SWAYS SOLDIERS

Regiments Hail Approach of Zeppelins, Which Are Shelled Before They Get in Range.

By GORDON BRUCE.

The Hague, Nov. 29.—Holland has been transformed. Out of the quaint land of eighteen months ago—its very name a synonyme for peace—has been evolved an alert nation, fairly bristling with military preparedness and efficiency.

Indications of the great change are everywhere. From the Belgian frontier to the Hook of Holland are soldiers and more soldiers. Barracks have sprung up in all towns of importance. Aviation bases have been established and munitions making is proceeding at top speed.

The men who make up the army of 400,000 men present a splendid appearance. Their slate-colored uniforms are neat and attractive. They appear to have a snap and go about every movement. "The Dutch army," which in the past has carried little inspiration, is now an organization not to be despised.

"We have been amazed at the progress our men have made in their year of training," a military captain told me. We were standing at a little station on the Belgian border at the time. "You should have seen these men when they were mobilized. Sloppy would be your word for it. They slouched about and had no soldierly instincts."

"But now—well, we have to watch them closely in order to preserve our neutrality. A certain amount of military spirit seems to have come to them with the hard training we have given them. We have to change these frontier guards continually to avoid trouble with those fellows over there," and he indicated with a wave of the hand the German lines only a few score yards away.

Dutch Hate Germans.

According to this officer the ill feeling between the Dutch and German troops is so great that on one occasion it became necessary to disarm an entire regiment until another could be substituted.

The border regiments have had a dull time of it, and almost anything in the line of excitement would be welcome. I was told by another officer that the approach of German aeroplanes and the firing of their guns is hailed with joy by the Dutch gunners. And that as soon as the craft are within range they begin to bombard them at once, whether or not the invader is over Dutch territory. They can't wait.

Amusing incidents are told by the frontier guards of the rush into Holland of the Belgian civilians and soldiers at the time Antwerp fell. "Bird cages some empty and others containing canaries or parrots—violins and cats seemed to be the chief burdens of the refugees," one guard said.

How Airmen Sank U-Boat Told by British Officer

Submarine Seen Just Below Surface in North Sea—Two Bombs, Aimed with Unerring Precision, Cut Craft in Centre.

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER.

London, Dec. 9.—"We let go both bombs and there was a great explosion. The U-boat seemed to crumple up, her centre caved in and the bow and stern rose sharply. The next moment a big black patch spread over the spot where we last saw her."

That is the way Flight Sub-Lieutenant Taunton E. Viney, a lithe, twenty-three-year-old aviator of the Royal Navy Air Service, described the destruction of a German submarine with bombs from an aeroplane. When I saw him the public had just learned the name of the latest aviator to win a place on the roll of honor of Britain's daring birdmen.

"Word came to our base that there was a German submarine going north between Middelkerke and Ostend," said Lieutenant Viney, "and my observer, Lieutenant Comte de Sincay, of the French service, and I received orders to go after her. It was about 11:30 in the morning; very damp, but not cold or cloudy. The air was bumpy, and we wobbled about quite a bit until we reached about 5,000 feet."

Spiral Down After Quarry.

"We were going along at a pretty good rate when Sincay motioned that he had spotted two subs. One was about six miles offshore and the other a mile or so nearer in. I immediately began to spiral down and set out full tilt for the nearest one."

"After a moment we could plainly make out her conning tower. There were two men in it, and they evidently had seen us spotted, because immediately she began to dive. She was entirely submerged by the time we were over her."

"We had been keeping one eye on the other, of course. She had headed out at a sharp angle for deeper water when I began to cut her off. We soon caught up. At the same time I came down to about 1,000 feet. She reminded me of a big whale thrashing into deep water after a sun bath on a sand bar."

"As we neared her she twisted and turned, and it was evident there was great activity on board. Finally we swooped down directly over her, and looking down between my feet through the aeroplane's framework I saw the deck and the conning tower. The thought of the months of practice flashed into mind, and I can't tell you how good it seemed to have an enemy boat for a target."

"I waited an instant and then let go both bombs. They fell just one great explosion. Sincay followed the flight of both bombs, and he says they hit their mark. Circling about, I caught a glimpse of her bow and stern rising and her centre crumpling in, and then she disappeared. I could not follow many details, of course, because I was kept busy managing my machine, and the only way one can see is beneath through the legs."

"Why didn't she dive when you went for her?" I asked.

"Well, I suppose she drew so much water that the commander thought it wiser to stay on top and risk getting

"They came pouring in upon us by the hundreds of thousands. The tragic part of it was that, try as we would it was impossible to feed them at once. For instance, one village of 800 inhabitants suddenly found itself with a population of 48,000, and you can see what that meant."

Belgians Interned by Error.

"Some of the Belgian troops who are now interned here came through error. The retreat from Antwerp was more of a parade than anything else. More than 15,000 Belgians marched over our border with flags flying and bands playing before they realized where they were. Of course, they had to stay here. We are entertaining about 35,000 Belgian soldiers now, in addition to numbers of French, German and British troops."

There is one British soldier whom the Dutch are not entertaining, however, according to the authorities and accounts printed in the newspapers of Holland. He is an aviator, who made a forced landing on the wrong side of the international fence. For many months he partook of Dutch bounty, under guard most of the time, for he refused to give an unlimited parole. When he desired to go to Amsterdam or other neighboring cities he would sign a parole agreeing not to attempt to escape for a certain number of hours. A few days ago he scribbled out one of the familiar forms and disappeared. He did not return.

Instead, from the British coast came a message to the government of The Netherlands thanking the officials for their kind treatment and for a safe journey home. Then it was discovered that his parole slip read: "I will not promise not to try to escape," etc.

Dutch Tricked by Aviator.

The telegram was printed, with an account of the escape, in the leading papers, but no word of the incident appeared in the English prints. The Dutch do not consider that the insertion of the word "not" voided the parole. They look upon the affair as a trick, unworthy of an honorable soldier, and feel that the young man should be sent back to his internment, as was the French aviator, Gilbert, when he escaped from Switzerland a few months ago.

The Dutch have absorbed the lessons of the war in many vital respects. For example, they realize the futility of fortresses, and it is said that most of these have been dismantled. Adepts at ditch digging, they have furrowed the country with cross-cross lines of trenches, artfully disguised.

THOUSANDS IN BALKANS LACK FOOD AND HOMES

Boston Physician Sees Terrible Winter Ahead for Refugees.

Salonica, Dec. 19.—"Released Austrian prisoners of war to the number of 1,000 are without shelter and food in Albania, as are the inhabitants of that country," said Dr. Edward Stuart, of Boston, to-day. Dr. Stuart is a member of the American Sanitary Commission, which left Salonica last month after completing a campaign against typhus and which has been recalled to this city to take up Serbian relief work.

"Conditions among the refugees here are bad enough," Dr. Stuart added, "but tens of thousands of non-combatants remaining in war devastated Serbia must be infinitely worse. This winter, during the bitter winter already begun, probably will exceed all the sufferings endured by the Belgians, because the Serbs are so inaccessible to relief. Americans are most willing to help, and their success depends on the promptness with which facilities are granted by the Austro-Hungarians and Bulgarians for Northeastern Serbia, by the Italians for Albania and by the Greeks for Southern Serbia. This question of speed may save hundreds of lives."

hit rather than dump into a sandy bottom."

"Did you see the other one again?" "No. There was just enough of a ripple to make it impossible to see far below the surface. What I can't understand is why they didn't fire at us. Both of them carried anti-aircraft guns, but there was not the slightest attempt to unlimber them. In just an hour and a quarter we got back to our base without trouble of any kind."

Built Like College Athletes.

To see these young air-fighters, nearly all under thirty, gathered at mess one would think them a crowd of undergraduates. Light-hearted and seemingly carefree, they banter one another as if without a worry in the world. An hour later they are performing unchronicled feats of bravery, skill and daring.

Such a man is Viney. He is just six feet tall, and weighs slightly over 150 pounds. He is long of limb, broad-shouldered and as quick as lightning in every action. In civil life he is the sort that sails over hurdles and leaps the bar in the high jump. He has been in the air service since last May, when he returned from South Africa, where he had spent six months in Prince Alfred's Guards.

For one month he was in the armored motor car service, and then was transferred to the Royal Navy Air Service. For the last three months he has been stationed at the present base, close enough to the front to make life interesting for even the most blasé.

Though a youngster in years and service, he has the confidence of a veteran, and talks and acts as if he were capable of handling himself well under any circumstances. Modest, but absolutely fearless, he is a fine representative of a service conspicuous for its daring young men who have distinguished themselves countless times since the war began.

Hawklike Watch for U-Boats.

It probably is no news to the German, but it probably is unknown to the public, that men like Viney have helped materially in lessening the activities of the U-boats by vigilant patrol of waters. Constant watch has made them eagle-eyed and quick of observation. The honor role of the Royal Navy Air Service includes Lieutenant Warneford, who won the Victoria Cross for destroying a Zeppelin. A few days later, while flying near Paris with Harry B. Needham, an American writer, he lost his life. Others in the same service are Squadron Commander Arthur W. Bigsworth, who damaged a Zeppelin and sank the first submarine destroyed by aeroplane bombs, of Ostend; Lieutenant Wilton and Mills, who destroyed German hangars at Brussels; Squadron Commander Courtney, who dropped bombs on two German submarines in a slip at Antwerp, and Lieutenant Ferran, who shot down a German albatross recently near Ostend.

Not money or patriotism alone attracts these men to the air service. It is the individuality that counts here—counts higher than in any other department of the war game. With a foe willing to fight to the finish, no quarter in the death duels high above the earth is asked or given.

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The outside wax paper serves only as the carrying wrapper and should be removed from each load. The inside wrapper of pure rice paper is tasteless and odorless.

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Some men may want to smoke VELVET SMOKAROLS in the old way—if so, crumble one in the palm of your hand and fill your pipe as you usually do. Surely VELVET SMOKAROLS are handier to carry than any tobacco you ever saw.

If your dealer cannot supply you, we will send you a drum of VELVET SMOKAROLS—12 packages, 72 smokes—30c, and a SMOKAROL PIPE 25c, on receipt of cash or stamps.

Leggett & Myers Tobacco Co. 212 Fifth Ave., New York

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BUT IF IT'S HOSIERY—

What to give Betty? So much depends on Betty's own taste. If it's something in Jewelry, Silverware, Handbags, Art Goods, Clocks—we have a little book to send you that may suggest the very thing. (Please send for it.)

But if it's Hosiery, she will like few things better than a box of "Courtly" Silk Hose (the guaranteed hose of quiet elegance).

White or the wanted shades; box of 8, \$2.25; box of 6, \$4.50.

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